

The House Committee on Judiciary Non-civil offers the following substitute to HB 310:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to death investigations, so as to provide for certain notification requirements; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to death investigations, is amended by revising subsection (f) of Code Section 45-16-22, relating to medical examiners' inquiries, as follows:

"(f) When death occurs in a hospital as a direct result and consequence of acts or events taking place in a county other than the one in which such death occurs, the hospital shall immediately notify the coroner or the medical examiner of the county in which the acts or events resulting in the death occurred, and the body shall be returned to the county in which such acts or events took place. When a dead body is found in a county in which the acts or events leading to death did not occur, it shall be returned to the county in which the acts or events did occur, if known. The coroner or local medical examiner of the county in which such acts or events took place shall assume jurisdiction and the medical examiner's inquiry, if any performed, shall be paid for from funds of the county in which such acts or events took place."

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 45-16-24, relating to notification of suspicious or unusual deaths, as follows:

"(a) When any person dies in any county in this state:

- (1) As a result of violence;
- (2) By suicide or casualty;
- (3) Suddenly when in apparent good health;

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1 (4) When unattended by a physician;

2 (5) In any suspicious or unusual manner, with particular attention to those persons 16
3 years of age and under;

4 (6) After birth but before seven years of age if the death is unexpected or unexplained;

5 (7) As a result of an execution carried out pursuant to the imposition of the death penalty
6 under Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 17;

7 (8) When an inmate of a state hospital or a state, county, or city penal institution; or

8 (9) After having been admitted to a hospital in an unconscious state and without
9 regaining consciousness within 24 hours of admission,

10 it shall be the duty of any law enforcement officer or other person having knowledge of
11 such death to notify immediately the coroner or county medical examiner of the county
12 wherein events or acts resulting in death occurred or the body is found ~~or death occurs~~. For
13 the purposes of this Code section, no person shall be deemed to have died unattended when
14 the death occurred while the person was a patient of a hospice licensed under Article 9 of
15 Chapter 7 of Title 31."

16 **SECTION 3.**

17 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.